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# The Daily Gamecock, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2012

University of South Carolina, Office of Student Media

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# Salty Nut arson suspect arrested

USC student also accused of setting three other fires

Julianne Lewis and Thad Moore  
NEWS@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

An apprehended USC student is believed to have started the Jan. 6 Salty Nut Cafe fire and is suspected in three attempted arsons around campus.

Theodore Walter Podewil IV, 22, was arrested when police arrived at his apartment on the 900 block of Laurens Street around 8:30 p.m. Tuesday. He was asleep when officers arrived, and he cooperated peacefully, police said.

Podewil, a fourth-year criminal justice student, is charged with manufacturing,

possessing and using an incendiary device and is being held at the Alvin S. Glenn Detention center with bail set at \$25,000.



PODEWIL

Law enforcement chose not to charge Podewil with arson because if he's convicted, the current charges would result in a longer imprisonment, according to Fire Department Chief Aubrey Jenkins.

The incendiary device charge can result in 10 to 20 years in prison, while an arson charge carries a lighter sentence with a maximum of 10 years.

"He was manufacturing," Jenkins said, referring to Molotov cocktails Podewil

allegedly made. "That's why we chose that charge, as opposed to the arson charge."

Incidents occurring over the weekend led investigators to Podewil.

Police said he threw a Molotov cocktail consisting of a Rolling Rock beer bottle, a white cloth and an unknown chemical at a dumpster behind the University Technology Services Annex Saturday night. However, the concoction did not ignite, and his fingerprints were found on the duct tape he allegedly used to tape the cloth to the bottle.

The brand of the bottle, according to an incident report, "coincides with several similar open investigations" by campus and Columbia police.

At the scene of another incident the

SALTY NUT ● 3

## Sexual assault police report released

Document made public five days after incident

Cassie Cope  
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Five days after an alleged sexual assault occurred, Columbia Police Chief Randy Scott made the incident report available to The Daily Gamecock Wednesday.

The report said the incident location was 2000 Greene St., which is the address for Pavlov's, a popular Five Points bar. However, a press release Saturday said the incident reportedly occurred at a residence on Greene Street. The police report confirmed this, calling the location of the crime a "residence/home."

Scott said the victim was underage, and according to the incident report, both the suspect and the victim had been consuming alcohol.

Underage drinking is an issue Scott said he's concerned about.

"Unfortunately, Pavlov's has been the ring leader for underage drinking," he said.

An officer was dispatched to a hospital at 2:31 a.m. Saturday in response to the allegation of criminal sexual conduct in the third degree or "forcible rape," according to the report. The earlier release said that the incident reportedly occurred Friday.

The report said the suspect in this crime hasn't been identified or located.

The suspect was an "acquaintance" of the victim, according to the report, though Scott said that the term "acquaintance" on an incident report does not necessarily mean they were friends, but it also doesn't mean they were strangers.

South Carolina's code of laws state a person is guilty of criminal sexual conduct in the third degree if:

— "The actor uses force or coercion to accomplish the sexual battery in the absence of aggravating circumstances."

— "The actor knows or has reason to know that the victim is mentally defective, mentally incapacitated, or physically helpless and aggravated force or aggravated coercion was not used to accomplish sexual battery."

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# Sudden SPRING?

South Carolina might not see winter weather

Amanda Coyne  
ACOYNE@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

A warm, beautiful February day in South Carolina? Recent temperatures, floating between 50 and 70 degrees Fahrenheit, have made last year's 5-inch snowfall and subsequent snow days a distant memory to most, raising the question: Will USC have a winter?

"It's not likely," Cary Mock, associate professor of geography, said. "You can never rule out the chance of a freak event, but there's a 70 percent chance it will be warmer than normal for the next six weeks or so. If we don't get to colder weather by the end of February, there's really no chance."

The fact that the U.S. is undergoing a La Niña event doesn't help Columbia's chances of wintry weather.

"Typically, the Southeast tends to have drier and warmer conditions during a La Niña year," said Leonard Vaughan, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service. "That's been the case this year."

La Niña events are characterized by surface temperatures in the eastern Pacific Ocean that are colder than normal.

"This reduces evaporation and often results in a shift



Kelsey Phillips / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

of the polar jet stream farther north," professor and Geography Department Chair Greg Carbone said. "With the poleward shift in the jet stream, cold, Arctic air has less chance of penetrating across North America."

Also contributing to the recent warm weather is the North Atlantic Oscillation, a fluctuation in atmospheric pressure which influences winds and storm tracks. When the oscillation is in what Vaughan calls "negative mode," cold air

from Canada moves southward, and the jet stream "dips down," causing colder weather, which is what happened last winter.

"This year, the North Atlantic Oscillation has been

WEATHER ● 3

# ESPN founder tells story of network

Rasmussen hopes tale will inspire USC students

Courtney Charroux  
NEWS@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

Students packed into the Russell House Ballroom Wednesday evening and eagerly listened while Bill Rasmussen, the founder of ESPN, told them the story of how the network

came to be.

About 300 arrived in total — some even standing in the back of the room — as Rasmussen described how he and his son Scott came up with the idea for a 24-hour sports network, and how they made it happen.

He was turned down by many different investors in the late 1970s, but Rasmussen kept on.

Today, ESPN is the highest-grossing network in The Walt

Disney Corporation; is broadcast on all seven continents; is available in 52 counties worldwide; and is tied to ESPN Radio, itself the biggest radio station in the world.

But it didn't start out with such success — or even the wide array of sports it broadcasts today.

The National Hockey league was the first to sign with ESPN, giving them privileges to

ESPN ● 2

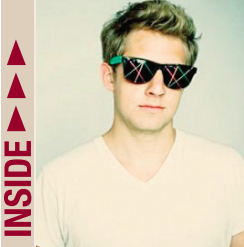


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## WEATHER

Thursday  
75° 41°  
Friday  
68° 44°

## MIX



### The Mix Tape

Mix Editor Chloe Gould lists five soulful singer/songwriters we're thinking about this week.

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## VIEWPOINTS



### Voter ID law

Columnist Emily Anderson calls into question the motives behind SC's proposed voter ID law.

See page 4

## SPORTS



### National Signing Day

South Carolina saw all of its commitments stick and filled its needs with signees from Georgia.

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**ESPN • Continued from 1**

broadcast all their games. The National Football League came next, giving them their first full season in 1987.

Major League Baseball didn't sign on until 1990, and although the NCAA was not entertained by the idea at first, shortly after its first demo on air, they too signed with the network.

ESPN's other popular features and programs, like the Top 10 Plays and College Game Day, just evolved from ideas

thrown around in a room full of employees.

Rasmussen's spirit of determination shone through was asked if he had any advice for aspiring entrepreneurs.

"Always have belief in yourself and be positive of the idea," he said.

It was a fitting answer from a man who brought a seemingly silly idea to massively successful fruition.

Comments on this story?  
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# Black History Month kicks off

*Stories, memories reflect personal spirit of heritage*

**Rebecca Johnson**  
NEWS@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

It wasn't until the 20th century that African-Americans had any substantial mention in American history books.

And it wasn't until 1926 that recognition of black history began in earnest with "Negro History Week," which later expanded to fill the entire month of February.

Kicking off Black History Month, the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs and the Black Faculty and Staff Association unveiled their February plans in the Capstone Campus Room Wednesday at noon.

Among them: Hip Hop Wednesday, a visit from Rev. Run of Run-D.M.C. and the 2012 Gospel Extravaganza.

Rodrick Moore, director of the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs, and Kenneth Frierson, assistant director, are both enthusiastic about their plans for Black History Month.

"It is important to promote awareness of African-American history to the campus at large," Moore said. "[There is] no better way to do this than through events."

Events this month will showcase

everything from films, food and music to literature relating to black history, which Frierson hopes will help educate and influence students.

"[Black History Month] will benefit the university community because black history is American history, and our theme of the month is 'Embracing the Past: Shaping the Future,' so as you learn more about the past, you will learn more of your future," he said.

Wednesday's speakers echoed that theme, drawing from personal experience and the experiences of others to remind students to be mindful of the past, their country and people's heritages, as well as to be more aware and appreciative of the opportunities in their own lives.

That resonated with John Cuenin, third-year political science and economics student and Student Government Historian, who said he came to the event for the passion its cause embodies.

"I thought it would be a really good program because I feel like students should participate in programs more often," he said. "The people that put on events are very passionate about the causes they promote."

Much of that passion stems from the personal stories and experiences that comprise black history.

Oran Logan, a first-year biology student, welcomed attendees



Nicole DeBartolo / THE DAILY GAMECOCK  
**Gene Luna shares his "personal black history" with students in Capstone Wednesday afternoon.**

to the kick-off event and introduced what he described as a "Black History Month celebration of beautiful people with triumphant stories and heritage."

Gene Luna, associate vice president for housing and student development, has one of those stories, which he calls his "personal black history."

Luna grew up near Greensboro in Leeksville, N.C., and was a student at Roanoke College during the height of the Civil Rights Movement. He roomed with the college's first black

student and athlete.

"I felt a little special being asked," he said.

Luna and his roommate, Frankie Allen, who coaches men's basketball at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, became best friends during their time together, a friendship Luna said he still values.

"There began a friendship and education for both of us I wouldn't trade any of my degrees for," he said.

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## Bed bugs at The Lofts

When most college students hear mention of scent-detecting canines searching through apartments, they usually assume the dogs are looking for drugs.

But that won't be the case for residents of The Lofts at USC today. The building's management sent out a notice to residents Wednesday to inform them of imminent inspections, not for drugs, but for a much more sinister nuisance — bed bugs.

"As I'm sure you're aware, we have experienced isolated concerns with bed bugs," the statement read. "As a company we take these concerns very seriously; therefore as a preventative measure we have employed Gregory Pest Control Service to do a sweep of the entire property with a (World Detector Dog Organization) certified scent-detection canine."

The dog will sweep the premises starting at 9 a.m., the statement said. Management asked residents for their cooperation to insure an accurate inspection can be conducted.

— Compiled by Colin Campbell

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## Media and Advertising in the 2012 Election:

A Reporter's View on Message Management in Today's Politics

Jeremy W. Peters is a politics reporter for The New York Times, focusing on the ways campaigns and outside groups use advertising and other media and communications strategies to sell candidates, ideologies and issues. He was previously a media reporter covering the publishing beat — newspapers and magazines — for The Times since June 2010. Prior to that, Mr. Peters had been a metro reporter in The Times's Albany bureau; he joined the Metro desk in 2007. Previously, Mr. Peters had been a reporter for the Continuous News desk since May 2006, covering business news. He had been a contract reporter in The Times's Detroit bureau since October 2004, producing news and features for the paper and covering the auto industry in one of its most tumultuous times.

Before joining The Times, Mr. Peters was a reporter for the Virgin Islands Daily News. Before that, he worked as a stringer and an intern for The Times, first while still a student at the University of Michigan.

Mr. Peters was a member of the team that won the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for Breaking News for its swift and sweeping coverage of the sex scandal that resulted in the resignation of Governor Eliot Spitzer.

The New York Times

**inCOLLEGE**

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WEATHER • Continued from 1

pretty positive, which tends to keep the jet stream from making dips,” Vaughan said. “Last year, the North Atlantic Oscillation every now and then would balance out the weather you’d expect from a La Niña, but this year it has been very inactive; it hasn’t had much influence on the weather here in South Carolina.”

The past two months have been “unseasonably warm,” according to Vaughan, who reported that both December and January had average temperatures that were significantly higher than usual.

“January was 4.6 degrees above normal, which is fairly significant, and December was 4.8 degrees above normal. That’s pretty mild, but it’s not the warmest start to winter we’ve ever had,” Vaughan said, noting that December 2011 and January 2012 were the 17th warmest Decembers and Januaries since 1887.

This year’s warm winter is in stark contrast with Columbia’s last, with wide gaps between each year’s average highs and lows.

“During last year’s unusually cold winter, Columbia’s average January high and low were 53 and 30.5. The warm January of 2012 had an average high and low of approximately 62 and 37,” Carbone said.

Despite the warm weather, Carbone warns not to rule out a winter weather event completely.

“All you need is one cold outbreak and a little moisture from the Gulf of Mexico for a single snow storm,” Carbone said. “The odds are against us this winter, but we certainly can expect a few days to be cold.”

Carbone said for that to happen, the cold would have to coincide with a low-pressure system coming out of the Gulf or along the East Coast.

A change in the North Atlantic Oscillation could also spur a period of colder weather or a winter weather event.

“We have about a month, and there’s a chance this month for colder weather if the North Atlantic Oscillation goes negative again. It’s forecast to go neutral or negative in the middle of the month, so maybe we’ll get some colder air in a couple of weeks,” Vaughan said. “It looks like it’s going to be fairly mild, but it’s hard to tell. The way the weather’s been and the way the La Niña has been behaving decrease the chance, but it doesn’t mean it won’t happen.”

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SALTY NUT • Continued from 1

night before, another Rolling Rock bottle “may have been used as the device” when a Carolina Gardens trash drop-off area on Whaley Street caught fire, according to a separate report.

Police matched the fingerprints they collected to Podewil’s, which had been taken after a previous arrest.

According to the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED), Podewil was arrested three times in 2011: in April on charges of drunken driving, in October for reckless driving and driving with an open container, and in December for possession of cocaine.

When he was arrested Tuesday, investigators found evidence in his home “leading us to believe he’d continue if we hadn’t worked together,” Jenkins said.

Police had also responded to a report that a “burning object” was thrown from the top of Pendleton Street Garage at about 3:45 a.m. on Jan. 6, a few hours before the Salty Nut Cafe caught fire. Responding officers found “the shattered remains of what appeared to be a glass bottle that contained charred fabric and a flammable liquid” in the intersection of Pendleton and Pickens streets.

Since then, SLED, USC police and the Columbia Fire Department collaborated to relate the crimes.

Police said they think Podewil also used a Molotov cocktail in the Salty Nut Cafe arson, allegedly breaking a window and throwing one through it.

They believe that the targets of the crimes were chosen at random and that Podewil’s alleged acts were becoming increasingly frequent.

Police are not sure if Podewil worked alone. But Jenkins said he was relieved Podewil has been taken into custody.

“There is a calm in the neighborhood and the business area to know that this person’s off the street,” Jenkins said.

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Courtney Price / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

A USC student suspected in last month’s Salty Nut Cafe arson was arrested Tuesday night, following three similar incidents in which he was alleged to have been involved.

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Local PD disappoints USC with resistance

When a crime occurs — especially a sexual assault — there should be one concern on everyone’s mind: safety, both for the victim and for the community. News sources and police staff cooperate in an attempt to keep the public informed and aware of the dangers present.

“We believe strongly in crime reporting that is conscious of the needs of all those affected by an incident.”

This week, that cooperation fell apart.

In response to Friday’s sexual assault allegation, The Daily Gamecock requested police reports related to the incident.

At every turn, the Columbia Police Department stood in our way. It resisted our staff’s myriad requests and questions in a manner that was unnecessarily unhelpful. The department’s stonewalling even stretched the boundaries of public information laws.

The Daily Gamecock would never endanger the identity of a victim, especially a sexual assault victim. We believe strongly in crime reporting that is conscious of the needs of all those affected by an incident. For that reason, victim privacy is a great concern to us, as is the community’s right to have all the facts when a violent crime takes place near our campus.

However, the Columbia Police Department continues to ignore this right. A report released to us Wednesday came from the officer at the hospital — not the officer who responded to the crime scene — and was so heavily redacted that the information was convoluted and largely unhelpful. Only after finally reaching Police Chief Randy Scott were our reporters able to glean any substantial details.

This attitude does not just speak negatively of the police department’s engagement of local news sources, but also of its investment in the USC community in general. The police have an obligation — as we have ours — to give both our city and our campus every resource necessary for its protection.



ID requirements endanger voter rights

Law targets minorities, college-aged groups

The Senate Judiciary Committee of South Carolina passed a bill last week that could potentially disenfranchise many college students and minorities throughout the state.

Senate Bill 304 requires that proof of citizenship be presented when registering to vote, the most accessible form being a state-issued ID card. Many students do not have state-issued IDs, especially USC’s out-of-state population, which constitutes approximately 28 percent of the total student body. The law would accept out-of-state IDs in theory, but the eligibility of these IDs remains under the discretion of a single person — the executive director of the S.C. Department of Motor Vehicles.

This law would also limit voting opportunities for minorities. According to the NAACP, 25 percent of African Americans and 16 percent of Latinos do not have any form of government-issued identification.

Voter fraud suspicions increased following the 2008 presidential election, which boasted a notoriously high voter turnout — particularly among the African American and college-aged communities, the very populations who would be most negatively affected by the voter ID bill. Some attributed the high amounts of new voters to a proliferation of voter fraud rather than increased levels of interest among the newly eligible voter

generation.

SB 304 is almost identical to South Carolina’s previous voter ID bill, which was blocked last December. Changes to state voting policies in South Carolina are subject to federal pre-approval due to the state’s history of deliberate disenfranchisement of minorities. The U.S. Justice Department blocked the previous bill on the grounds that it was discriminatory and in direct violation of the Voting Rights Act.

The subcommittee insists that the bill is not a means of discriminating against minority voters, but rather a way to reduce the occurrence of voter fraud. Sen. Chip Campsen attempted to justify his support of the bill by arguing that the state’s current voting system allows illegal immigrants to cast ballots, though he was unable to provide any evidence that this is an issue in South Carolina. Further hurting his cause is the fact that, out of the 900 dead voters claiming to have “voted” in previous elections, none have been found to be actual instances of fraud. They were simply clerical errors.

The political motives behind this bill are staggeringly clear. Republican support in South Carolina remains stronger than ever, as the recent primary proves. It would only benefit the conservatives of this state to prevent as many Democrats as possible from voting in the presidential election next fall. However, voter rights extend beyond Republicans and Democrats. This bill endangers the rights of everyone, no matter their affiliation, and it should be opposed by anyone who wishes to keep the voting process a pure testament to the freedoms we all enjoy.

Languages still needed, present in global careers

Cultural awareness vital in education

Former Harvard President Lawrence Summers wrote an article last week commenting on the college education system and its future. Among his points, Summers wrote that learning a foreign language will be worthless to American students in the coming years. He suggested that within a fairly short time it will become unnecessary to have foreign



Lauren Stefan  
Fourth-year international studies student

language skills in a wide variety of fields ranging from business to medicine to politics.

One of Summers’ main explanations for this diminishing necessity is an alleged improvement in machine translation. Yet anybody who has attempted a last-minute online translation for a language class knows that a computer produces inconsistent work. Relying on a machine to switch between languages can barely get you a passing grade on an assignment, let alone give you an accurate understanding of, for example, a business proposal from a Spanish company.

Globalization will not have the power to completely destroy the variety of languages that exist, and preparing for the continuation of those languages is vital to students. Approaching foreigners with even a minimal understanding of the language — instead of relying on a machine to translate — shows a genuine drive to be conscious of their culture. This small attempt to connect with others on a cultural level will be an important factor in all international relations. This attitude could help Americans raise their standards and image in the global community.

Company unfairly claims Twitter followers

Former employee’s account does not constitute official customer list

You know the times are changing when a company believes that its Twitter followers should be treated like a customer list. The online social network service got its start almost six years ago, and is now being manipulated by companies that want more money.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Maria-Elena James ruled on Monday that the lawsuit by South Carolina company PhoneDog against former employee Noah Kravitz could go forward. PhoneDog, a review website for mobile devices, sued Kravitz in July with the claim that after Kravitz resigned from the company he changed his Twitter name from @PhoneDog-Noah to @noahkravitz, yet kept his 17,000 followers. PhoneDog claims that Kravitz should pay \$2.50 per Twitter follower per month for eight months, a total of \$340,000, because the followers are similar to a customer list. The company wants compensation for the loss of their “customers” and for the hundreds of

thousands of dollars that Kravitz’s name change cost them in lost business.

While these claims sound exaggerated, it is really not that hard to imagine a company losing money over social network followers. Look at Facebook. It began in 2004 and now has more than 800 million active users. That’s more than double the population of the United States. There are “pages” for everything you can imagine, pages that are often company-generated for the purposes of advertising. The same is becoming true for Twitter, and while Twitter is not as big as Facebook, it is climbing in members and is becoming more appealing for businesses. Its layout is easier to use and more flexible than Facebook’s, allowing businesses to increase their advertising even more. There is no denying that Twitter will become an even stronger tool for advertisers in the years to come.

However, Twitter followers should not be classified as a legitimate customer list. They could be classified

as an informal customer list, but unless PhoneDog is a business solely based on Twitter — which it is not — then it cannot claim that Kravitz stole its customers.

Kravitz should win this case, because what is at stake in this dispute is the difference between a customer and a follower. A customer can be classified as a person that buys either goods or services from a business, while a follower is an adherent of a certain person, cause or activity. Twitter followers should not be treated as a customer list, because the two words express two different qualities. True customers interact with a business through multiple means outside of Twitter, whereas followers simply keep track of announcements.

Despite all this, Kravitz could have avoided the issue by making it perfectly clear to his followers that he no longer represented PhoneDog. For all the students that are looking into a job that involves technology, specifically social networking, be careful to keep the company in mind and act professionally when handling Twitter. Your followers might change from a close resource into a career liability.



Angel Hollon  
First-year print journalism student

IT’S YOUR RIGHT

The goal of The Daily Gamecock’s Viewpoints page is to stimulate discussion in the University of South Carolina community.

All published authors are expected to provide logical arguments to back their views.

The Daily Gamecock encourages readers to voice opinions and offers three methods of expression: letters to the editor, guest columns and feedback on dailygamecock.com.

Letters and guest columns should be submitted via email to gamecockeditor@sc.edu. Letters must be 200 to 300 words in length

and include the author’s name, year in school and area of study.

We also invite student leaders and USC faculty members to submit guest columns. Columnists should keep submissions to about 500 words in length and include the author’s name and position.

The editor reserves the right to edit and condense submissions for length and clarity, or not publish at all.

All submissions become the property of The Daily Gamecock and must conform to the legal standards of USC Student Media.

CORRECTIONS

If you find an error in today’s edition of The Daily Gamecock, let us know about it. Email sagckvew@mailbox.sc.edu and we will print the correction in our next issue.

About The Daily Gamecock

The Daily Gamecock is the editorially independent student newspaper of the University of South Carolina. It is published daily during the fall and spring semesters and nine times during the summer with the exception of university holidays and exam periods. Opinions expressed in The Daily Gamecock are those of the editors or author and not those of the University of South Carolina. The Board of Student Publications and Communications is the publisher of The Daily Gamecock. The Department of Student Media is the newspaper’s parent organization. The Daily Gamecock is supported in part by student-activity fees. One free copy per reader. Additional copies may be purchased for \$1 each from the Department of Student Media.

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# Singers/songwriters shine with soul

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They’re a dime a dozen — the aspiring and established singer/songwriters who build their career around sweet acoustic melodies and crowd-captivating charm. Whether their records are products of basement recording booths and a network of friends, or the first release in label life, these soulful crooners appeal to the masses with their honest, self-written songs and stripped-down vocals. These are the five singer/songwriters on the rise we’re thinking about this week.

## Ben Rector

The sensitive, soul-searching songwriter who tells the tale of falling in love: it’s a quickly cornered market. But Oklahoma native Ben Rector takes the lovable nice-guy charisma to a new level. The 25-year-old singer touts a collection of love songs, each painting the picture of his wife and their lyrically adorable story. And he’s achieved his success on his own accord, reaching number one on the

singer/songwriter charts following the Sept. 13 release of his independent fourth album “Something Like This.” “Loving You is Easy” off 2010’s “Into the Morning” is one of his most popular — an upbeat, tongue-in-cheek look into love — while “She Is” from “Something Like This” is a personal No. 1, slowing things down for a more drum and piano-driven beat. Ben Rector is currently on tour with Needtobreathe and will be in Charlotte, N.C. March 2 and Charleston, S.C. March 3.

## Jesse Ruben

He’s cute, quirky and between his knit beanie and dangerous smile, it’s a wonder Jesse Ruben hasn’t already become a 20-something sensation. The Berklee College of Music in Boston grad grew up in a musical family and each of his live performances are sprinkled with stories of childhood — both in and outside of music — only further crafting his

likability as an artist. In a December show at Jammin Java in Vienna, Va. the traveling songster kept the audience swaying to his slow, melodies while sharing stories about his embarrassingly large front teeth as a child and his loves lost, scorned and cherished. Ruben has released two full-length albums on his own, “Aiming for Honesty” and “The Ones That Matter,” which are both available on iTunes.

## Julia Sheer

Golden, Colo., artist Julia Sheer has found her niche in her ability to bring her own set of emotions to each and every song she sings — from Katy Perry covers to original tracks from her two-man band Caroline County. The songstress proves herself with just one note, perfecting a sound somewhere between acoustic pop and country — with just the right amount of sweet Southern appeal. Sheer’s

personal website, juliasher.com, features a 2010 acoustic cover of Taylor Swift’s “Sparks Fly” while her YouTube channel (JuliaSheer) impresses with more recent renditions of Katy Perry’s “The One That Got Away” and The Band Perry’s “If I Die Young.” Sheer is now singing alongside singer/songwriter Matthew McGinn as the second half of Caroline County, adding a certain spunk and polish to original songs like “Heaven in the Middle of Nowhere.”

## Carter Hulsey

He’s the essence of cool with his crazy, disheveled hair, plaid button-ups and occasional Ray-Bans. Joplin, Mo., acoustic folk singer/songwriter Carter Hulsey has struck a balance between emotional and sensitive guitar-toting crooner and rebel without a cause. His first album — 2010’s “A Note In

Your Pocket” — released on fellow Joplin artist Christofer Ingle’s (of NeverShoutNever!) label Loveaway Records. It features slow-moving love single “Black & Blue” along with the more fun and character-telling “Good Time.” Hulsey’s Carter Hulsey Band independently released “What You Carry” in May, featuring single “Black My Lungs,” that transforms the solo artist’s sound to a rock-infused folk.

## Jenny Owen Youngs

She’s too cool for school — her long brown locks and acoustic guitar hark back to singers/songwriters of the ‘60s and ‘70s. There’s a quality, a rasp and register, which adds authenticity to her effortless sound. And her quirk, reflected most notably through her full character and costume-filled cover and music video of Nelly’s “Hot in Herre,” makes Youngs

hard not to love. Youngs released 2009’s “Transmitter Failure” with Canada’s Nettwerk Music Group, and has completed a successful Kickstarter campaign for her upcoming full-length “An Unwavering Band of Light.” The New Jersey rocker reigns in just the right dose of eccentricity, pumping up the first single off the new album, “Pirates,” with up-tempo percussion and heavy guitar. “An Unwavering Band of Light” drops Feb. 7 and the first single can be streamed on Purevolume.



Jenny Owen Youngs

Courtesy of jennyowenyoungs.com



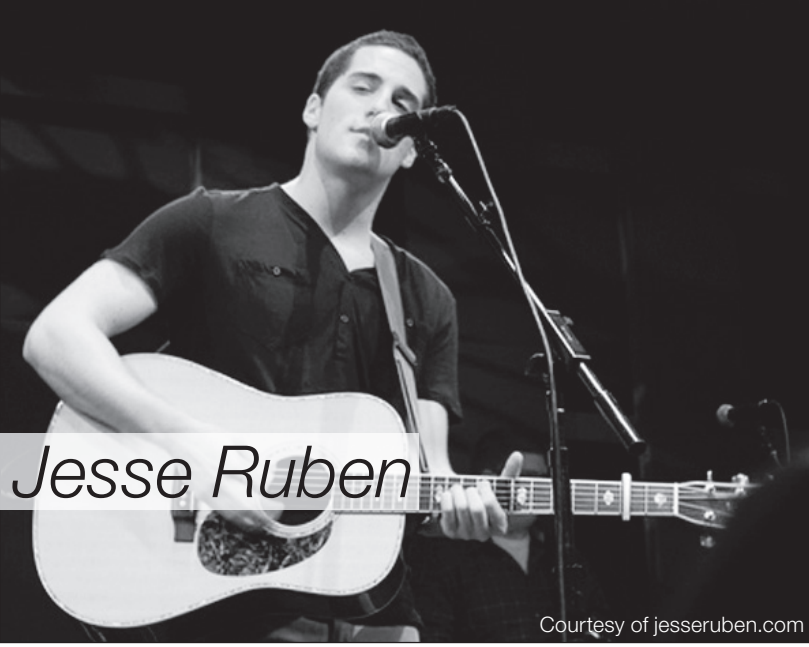
Ben Rector

Courtesy of Chris Galegar



Julia Sheer

Courtesy of Facebook.com



Jesse Ruben

Courtesy of jesseruben.com



Carter Hulsey

Courtesy of altpress.com

# ESPN founder pitches positive perspective

## Bill Rasmussen shares story behind network with students

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Bill Rasmussen is a baseball fan. So naturally, when he met USC President Harris Pastides, there was one main topic he wanted to discuss. “Baseball,” Rasmussen said. “He, as all of you are, is incredibly proud of the back-to-back national championships. What I mentioned to him was, because of my interest in baseball, prior to ESPN, the College World Series had no coverage. I wanted to include it, and that was part

of our contract with the NCAA — that we get to do the College World Series.” Rasmussen, the founder of ESPN, is not only a baseball fan, but a sports fan in general, which pointed him towards a 24-hour network devoted only to sports. Thirty-two years later, Rasmussen doesn’t even watch his brainchild every day. “I’m not a big television fan,” Rasmussen said. “I’d rather be doing things.” Rasmussen has always been the type to do something rather than sit around, which was what led him to found ESPN. After he was fired as the communications director of the New England Whalers hockey team, the opportunity arose for him to get involved in something new. Rasmussen heard about a satellite “drifting around up in the heavens” and decided that with

the satellite’s capabilities, he was going to get a 24-hour transponder and fill it with sports. “On Aug. 16, which I remember very well because it was my daughter’s 16th birthday, my son and I drove to New Jersey for her birthday party, and in that 8-hour stretch of driving — I was driving and he was writing — we laid out everything that ESPN became,” Rasmussen said. Rasmussen was originally laughed at by the major cable networks when he proposed his idea of a 24-hour sports network. “They thought this was the dumbest idea ever known to mankind,” Rasmussen said. “Everywhere I went people said, ‘No, it’s not going to work.’ I remember going to one very



# ‘The Artist’ tells talkie tale in silence

Actors bring subtle emotion to rare style

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In today’s world of CGI, sound effects and IMAX 3-D, silent films have been long-outdated. So the idea of making a silent film in today’s modern society doesn’t seem like a great idea, especially since it won’t appeal to the average moviegoer.

But it has happened. Director Michel Hazanavicius has turned back the clock and presented a charming piece of real movie enchantment for today’s “bigger and louder is better” audience.

“The Artist” stars French actor and comedian Jean Dujardin as George Valentin, the biggest name in silent film. He is a proud, charismatic and theatrical man who has more power than the Hollywood producers and often lets his celebrity go to his head.

One day, Valentin meets an aspiring young woman, Peppy Miller (Berenice Bejo), a would-be starlet who gains attention after taking a photo with Valentin. She gets her first big break into

cinema as an extra in one of Valentin’s films, creating a romantic chance for Valentin and Miller.

The movie then turns into a silent version of “Singin’ in the Rain” as the latest thing in the film world — the advent of the talkies — threatens Valentin’s career. The head of Valentin’s studio, Al Zimmer (John Goodman), tries to convince Valentin that talkies are the future, but Valentin refuses to have his voice heard on screen. Because of this, Valentin’s career hits rock bottom, while Miller embraces the future and becomes the biggest star in Hollywood.

In the hands of Hazanavicius, “The Artist” pays keen detail to the silent movie era. Everything in this movie (the lighting, the set location, the camera work, the editing) works to give that silent movie feel. Hazanavicius also gives us a screenplay so detailed that it makes the lack of both sound and dialogue completely irrelevant.

With the absence of dialogue, music is helps complement the mood during both the melodramatic and more lightweight scenes. Composer Ludovic Bource gives “The Artist” a very compelling score that more than accomplishes this, despite a very confusing entry of the love theme from “Vertigo” (1958).

The acting in “The Artist” is superb across the board, in a way that reminisces about performances from 80



**“The Artist”**  
**NOW IN THEATERS**

**Director:** Michel Hazanavicius  
**Starring:** Jean Dujardin, Berenice Bejo, John Goodman  
**Rating:** PG-13 for a disturbing image and a crude gesture

**A+**

John Goodman (right) stars as Al Zimmer, the head of George Valentin’s (Jean Dujardin) studio, in “The Artist.”

years ago. With silent films, there comes the risk of overacting more dramatic scenes as well as not conveying more subtle emotions well. However, both Dujardin and Bejo, who have worked with Hazanavicius before, are marvelous as they emote the usual expressions of original silent stars.

Valentin and Miller are both compelling characters that we want to root for as they find each other on their separate paths in the future of cinema. The movie’s sense of romanticism and melodrama with these characters’ career

turns easily fascinates the audience. Miller strives to help Valentin get back on his feet as both an act of devotion and appreciation for Valentin’s help with her big break, giving their attraction a virtuous quality.

The supporting cast mostly consists of American actors. John Goodman is outstanding as the stern studio head who quickly embraces the talkies. James Cromwell gives a delightful performance as Valentin’s devoted butler. Even Uggie, Valentin’s dog is a scene-stealer in this film.

Critics have said that what makes “The Artist” one of the best films of 2011 is how it presents itself as a wonderful piece of nostalgia toward a beloved, outdated age of media history. The same has been said about “Hugo” and “Midnight in Paris,” two of “The Artist’s” competition in the Oscar race. But “The Artist” is much more than a piece of nostalgia; it’s also a loving embrace of the possibilities of the present and the future of cinema.

The only harmless downside of “The Artist” is its unrealistic

look at the downfall of the silent film. The movie depicts the transition from silent to talkie as rather simple in its two-year span; whereas in reality, it was much more complicated. But then again, this movie is more about the tribute and the public’s changing taste.

“The Artist” may not appeal to the taste of the modern-day moviegoer, but if given the chance, the movie will no doubt prove delightful to anyone who sees it.

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The founder of ESPN Bill Rasmussen spoke to a crowd of around 300 USC students and faculty Thursday night.

**RASMUSSEN ● Continued from 5**

prestigious broadcasting company — not one of the big networks — and they invited me to lunch with the board, which was very kind of them. We had a nice meeting after which the chairman walked me to the door and

figuratively patted me on the back, ‘You’re a nice young man, but this idea is never going to work.’”

Rasmussen refers to himself as a positive guy who doesn’t take no for an answer. When speaking to a crowd of college students, he says that is his greatest message.

“I think in this country we have such opportunity,” Rasmussen said. “When we started, we didn’t have computers. We didn’t have email. We weren’t online. There was no Internet. There was no digital. But right now, in any room, any collection of people could pick a name for

a business, go to any domain supplier, make it a website under construction and put it online in 10 minutes.

“Back then we used to have to call people, put a stamp on an envelope, mail it to them, they mailed it back. Then it’s, ‘You can meet me three weeks from Thursday.’ Today we wouldn’t even do that. Given the tools and given the ability to communicate today, I’m kind of envious because I would like to start a whole bunch of new businesses.”

Rasmussen looks at ESPN in the way someone would look at their kids who grew up to be successful lawyers or doctors.

His favorite part of ESPN is the “Baseball Tonight” program, mostly because of his love of the sport. Though he doesn’t watch the channel every day, he still takes immense pride in how it has grown.

Rasmussen likes to end his appearances by challenging his audience in the same way he challenged himself 33 years ago when he was out of a job:

“Which one of you is going to walk through that door with the next great idea that I’ll know started here tonight?”

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National Signing Day



Richard Pearce / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Wide receiver Shaq Roland, a Lexington native, is USC's fourth-straight Mr. Football signee from the state of South Carolina.

Gamecocks fill needs with 12 signees out of Georgia

Isabelle Khurshudyan

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South Carolina coach Steve Spurrier will not be able to accurately evaluate his incoming class for several years.

“We’ve all signed players that everybody thinks is going to tear them up, but they don’t do much,” Spurrier said. “Then you get some that nobody wants very much and they come in and be good, solid players. Three to four years down the road is when you know how your recruiting class did.”

For the time being, Spurrier was all smiles when talking about the names on the letters of intent that he received on Wednesday, especially because of how everyone in the class honored their commitment.

“Every player that officially committed to us stuck,” Spurrier said. “We didn’t have any defections or anything like that. It was neat that they all stuck with us from the beginning. Statistics show that players that stick to their commitment usually stick in college. Those that change around a few times, a lot of times they change colleges too, so I think we’ve got a good class of young men.”

Not only did the Gamecocks’ commits stick, but they stuck early. Steve Spurrier Jr., the recruiting coordinator, cited a study that says that the earlier players commit, the more likely they are to defect; however, the Gamecocks had 16 commits at the end of the summer when they only had six the year before at that time.

“It’s changed the way we offer

people,” Spurrier Jr. said. “When we offer a young man in the summer, there’s a chance he may commit to us, so we better make sure that’s a player we want. Recruiting’s changed a little bit in the summer — you need to make sure you get them on your campus and you need to really try to get them to a camp and evaluate them.”

Though Spurrier won’t be ready to give a real evaluation for another three years when the class has had an opportunity to perform on the field, the achievements of the class look favorable for USC. The class includes four PARADE All-Americans in offensive tackle Brock Stadnik, defensive end Darius English, quarterback Brendan Nosovitch, and wide receiver Shaq Roland. In a class rated No. 18 in the nation and No. 7 in the SEC by Rivals.com, 12 of the 25 signees are from Georgia and just five from South Carolina. North Carolina and Florida were had the third-most signees with three each.

“Georgia is always a state that has a lot of players,” Spurrier Jr. said. “I’m not sure if it was last year or the year before, but Georgia sent more players to the SEC than any other state, so we’ve always known there’s a lot of players in that state.”

Lorenzo Ward, who was promoted to defensive coordinator after the departure of Ellis Johnson for the Southern Miss head coaching vacancy, is responsible for most of the Georgia commitments. Spurrier Jr. said that Ward “really hustled and recruited hard all over the place all year long.”

Why is Ward an efficient recruiter? “He’s an encourager,” Spurrier said. “He’s not a screamer or yeller so much.

He’s a teacher and encourager, so I think he’s an important guy around here as the defensive coordinator.”

The Gamecocks were filled their biggest need and Ward’s area of expertise, defensive backs, as well as wide receiver and offensive lineman.

“Last year, we signed a lot of defensive lineman, so this year we knew we wouldn’t be as heavy in that area,” Spurrier Jr. said. “Offensive line is always a need — you like to sign five a year. Five or six offensive lineman a year would really be great, but they seem to be in the lowest supply and in the highest demand. It’s hard to find five great ones, but we definitely try our best. Defensive backs is a need in the secondary and also for special teams because they’re usually your best contributors there, so coach Ward did an excellent job.”

Though it might take three to four years to fully evaluate the class, Spurrier is well aware of how quickly a string of quality recruiting classes can make an impact, as the Gamecocks have been able to have their two best seasons in program history off their recruiting, which, in return, has been a greater draw for more top recruits.

“We’ve certainly got more to offer than we ever have here at South Carolina,” Spurrier said. “We have a track record for winning. We have a track record for graduating our players. We play in the SEC and the facilities right now are about as good as anywhere in the country, so we’ve got a good football program. Our job is to keep it going.”

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Roland signs with USC

South Carolina emphasizes in-state recruitment

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South Carolina coach Steve Spurrier takes pride in signing the best player in South Carolina, and he has good reason to after the track record the Gamecocks have had recently.

“Certainly, getting Mr. Football again this year is neat,” Spurrier said. “Really, looking back at Stephon Gilmore being the first, he really helped us four years ago. We had just come off the Outback Bowl, where we played like crap. I had hoped somebody didn’t get a hold of Stephon and get him out of here, but he was a midyear guy, so he came in January and stuck with us. Then Marcus Lattimore, then (Jadeveon) Clowney, and now Shaq Roland. They’ve all been outstanding players and will continue to be, so it’s pretty neat that we’ve been able to do that.”

Spurrier’s past three Mr. Football recruits have led to three consecutive defeats of Clemson, one SEC East Championship, and the school’s first 11-win season. When Roland, the 2011 Mr. Football out of Lexington, signed his letter of intent, he became the fourth-straight South Carolina Mr. Football to commit to USC, bringing a host of expectations with him. Nevertheless, Roland was relieved to get signing day over with and make his commitment to USC official.

“I’m just looking forward to going there,” Roland said. “We should have a great season.”

Roland said that Steve Spurrier Jr., who coaches wide receivers, told him that he can make a similar impact as the past three Mr. Footballs.

“He’s a great guy,” Roland said. “He told me they have a need for a receiver to replace Alshon (Jeffery), as far as his position. They think I can make an impact early.”

Spurrier recalled watching Roland in a high school game and being impressed with his speed.

“I got a chance to watch the first half of one of their games this year,” Spurrier said. “He caught one or two touchdowns in the first half. I got a chance to watch him play, compete and so forth. He’ll have a chance to come in here and compete and go from there, as will the other receivers.”

Roland is one of just five in-state recruits in the Gamecocks’ class this year. Spurrier Jr., who also serves as recruiting coordinator, stressed the importance of recruiting within South Carolina, but said there weren’t as many highly rated prospects in the state this year. Spurrier also argued that Georgia, specifically the Atlanta area, just has more people, which leads to more players from that area.

New running backs coach Everette Sands also stressed that USC needs to “keep the best players in South Carolina at South Carolina.” Sands, who is originally from Conway, S.C. said that he will recruit the southwestern part of the state, as well as the southeastern part of Georgia. He came to USC in January after coaching at North Carolina State and faced several challenges in joining a new staff so close to signing day.

“It’s in the middle of recruiting, so just making sure you’re doing things the right way,” Sands said. “You don’t want to hurt North Carolina State, but at the same time, I wanted to do what’s best for me and my family. Doing things fair for them on their recruiting side, but also getting to know the running backs on this side.”

One of the new running backs Sands will get to know is Kendric Salley out of Williston, S.C. Ironically, Sands had recruited Salley for N.C. State.

“Kendric’s a good player,” Sands said. “It’s unfortunate he got hurt this year, but he still came back even after his injury and had a good year, so he’s a guy that we offered when I was at North Carolina State.”

Other USC signees from South Carolina are tight end Jerrell Adams, wide receiver Kwinton Smith and offensive tackle Mason Zandi.

“There’s still plenty of players in this state that are excellent players,” Spurrier Jr. said. “We know that if we’re going to become as good a team as we can be, then we have to recruit this state very well.”

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Gamecocks travel to UF

South Carolina looks to avenge January loss to Gators in Gainesville

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For the South Carolina basketball team, the mantra this season has been improving as the season progresses.

After a 0-4 start to SEC play, USC (9-11, 1-5 SEC) finally showed some progress with a 56-54 upset win over Alabama one week ago. However, Saturday the Gamecocks took another step backwards with a 66-62 loss on the road at Ole Miss.

Heading into tonight’s game in Gainesville, Fla., against Florida (17-4, 5-1 SEC), coach Darrin Horn is still confident that his team is improving.

“Our focus has continued to be the same thing,” Horn said. “Let’s keep getting better. We definitely made progress on the road at Ole Miss, we had a chance to win the game. That’s what you want to do in league play on the road. We missed a free throw and credit their kid for making a shot.”

Tonight will mark the second time USC has faced the Gators this season. In the last meeting at Colonial Life Arena, USC started the game hot and took a 41-40 lead into halftime before faltering in the second half, eventually losing 79-65. Florida burned the Gamecocks from behind the arc, making 12 of 24 3-point shots.

“We have got a very dangerous Florida team coming up,” Horn said. “They’re essentially leading the country in 3-point shooting. I think if you say that you have to go in and shut down their 3-point shooting, well that isn’t going to happen — they put up 26 a game. Some are going to drop in. I think what we have to do is eliminate some of the easy ones that come off of our mistakes where we have a bad turnover and it leads to a transition 3.”

Despite shooting guard Damien Leonard’s prolonged shooting slump, Horn has decided to keep him in the starting lineup, citing his work ethic and effort in practice.

“I just want to win,” Leonard said. “I just want to go out there and play hard and do what the coaches want me to do.”

USC is no stranger to playing ranked teams this season, and after tonight’s game the team has just two days to prepare to face No. 1 Kentucky at home Saturday. It will be the fourth meeting versus a top-five team for USC this season. This is



Chris Keohane / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Coach Darrin Horn said he will continue to start Damien Leonard.

something that Horn says is beneficial to his team, despite the challenging nature of the short turnaround against top teams.

“This is a team that has continued to build confidence,” Horn said. “We have practiced that way and played like it on Saturday against an Ole Miss team that has been very good at home. Our focus has got to be to continue to play that way and put ourselves into position to win one of these games on the road.”

The Gamecocks will need Damontre Harris to stay out of foul trouble tonight as he was limited to just 16 minutes on the court against Ole Miss, which hurt USC in more areas than one.

“His presence is huge for us in a lot of ways, specifically as it relates to his athleticism around the basket,” Horn said. “He can grab a few rebounds, block some shots and keep guys away from the rim. When he is not out there, we really don’t have anyone else like him.”

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